

IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A terminal device used in an electronic money system, comprising:

a data processor which processes data in an IC card storing electronic money information;

a communication circuit which communicates with a second external device through a public line;

a switching circuit which switches between a first path and a second path, said first path connecting a first external device and said communication circuit ~~without connecting to~~ while being disconnected from said data processor, and said second path connecting said data processor and said communication circuit for transferring electronic money data ~~without connecting to~~ while being disconnected from said first external device; and

a control circuit which controls said data processor, said communication circuit, and said switching circuit;

wherein, said control circuit controls said switching circuit to switch from said first path to said second path thereby disconnecting said first external device, at a time of transaction of electronic money information.

24. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 23, wherein said control circuit controls said switching circuit to switch from said second path to said first path after completion of said transaction of electronic money information.

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25. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 23, wherein said control circuit controls said switching circuit to switch from said first path to said second path, in accordance with a designation from said first external device to start said transaction of electronic money information.

26. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 23, further comprising;

 a display device; and
 an input device.

27. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 23, further comprising;

 a power circuit having a storage battery.

28. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 27, wherein said storage battery is charged through said communication circuit.

29. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 27, further comprising;

a power supply circuit receiving power supply from an external power source;
wherein said storage battery is charged through said power supply circuit.

30. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 27, further comprising;

a power receiving circuit which receives power from an external power source; and

a selector which selects one of said power receiving circuit and said power circuit;

wherein said selector selects said power receiving circuit to apply an output voltage of said power receiving circuit as supply voltage to said terminal device in an ordinary state, and selects said power circuit to apply the output voltage of said power circuit as supply voltage to said terminal device, when said output voltage of said power receiving circuit drops below a predetermined value.

31. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 30, further comprising;

a light emitting device capable of generating light instruction signals and combined with an external information processor; and

a light receiving device capable of receiving the light instruction signals and combined with said terminal device;

wherein, upon receiving the light instruction signal, the external information processor provides at least an electronic money information transaction start instruction to be given to the control circuit to instruct the control circuit to start the electronic money information transaction.

32. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 31, further comprising;

an input device that enters instructions to said control circuit combined with said terminal device;

at least an electronic money information transaction start requesting device combined with said light receiving device;

wherein, said input device provides the electronic money information transaction start instruction to

the control circuit, and the electronic money information transactions are carried out through said electronic money information transaction start requesting device.

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33. (Previously Presented) An electronic money information transaction system according to claim 23, wherein said data processor comprises a display capable of displaying image information.

34. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 23, wherein said second path further comprising;

a light emitting device which transmits data processed in said data processor, as light signals; and

a light receiving device which receives the light signals from said light emitting device, and provides the light signals to said communication circuit.

35. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 23, wherein said control circuit controls said switching circuit to switch from said first path to said second path, in accordance with a designation inputted from said second external device through said communication circuit.

36. (Currently Amended) A terminal device used in an electronic money system, comprising:

a first terminal device including an input device which enters data from a first external device, a communication circuit which communicates with a second external device through a public line, and a light receiving device which receives light signals;

a second terminal device including, a data processor which processes data in an IC card storing electronic money information, a light emitting device which generates light signals for sending to said first terminal device, and a control circuit which controls said data processor and said communication circuit; and

a switching circuit in said first terminal device, which switches between a first path and a second path, said first path connecting said first external device and said communication circuit ~~without connecting to while being disconnected from~~ said data processor, and said second path connecting said data processor of said second terminal device through said light emitting device and said light receiving device, and said communication circuit, for transferring electronic money data, ~~without connecting to while being disconnected from~~ said first external device;

wherein said control circuit in said second terminal device controls said switching circuit to switch from said first path to said second path thereby disconnecting said first external device, at a time of transaction of electronic money.

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37. (Currently Amended) A first terminal device used in an electronic money system having a second terminal device including, a data processor which processes data in an IC card storing electronic money information, a light emitting device which generates light signals for sending to said first terminal device, and a control circuit which controls said data processor, said first terminal device comprising:

an input device which enters data from a first external device;

a communication circuit which communicates with a second external device through a public line;

a light receiving device which receives light signals;

a switching circuit, which switches between a first path and a second path, said first path connecting a first external device and said communication circuit ~~without connecting to while being disconnected from said data~~ processor, and said second path connecting said data processor

of said second terminal device through said light emitting device and said light receiving device and said communication circuit, for transferring electronic money data, ~~without connecting to~~ while being disconnected from said first external device;

wherein said switching circuit switches from said first path to said second path thereby disconnecting said first external device, at a time of transaction of electronic money according to a control signal from said control circuit in said second terminal device.

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38. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 23, wherein electronic money can be transmitted along said second path regardless of the operation state of said first external device.

39. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 36, wherein electronic money can be transmitted along said second path regardless of the operation state of said first external device.

40. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to claim 37, wherein electronic money can be transmitted along

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said second path regardless of the operation state of said
first external device.
